Texas Farm Bureau honors Elmo Snelling

Elmo Snelling of Edmonson still farming at age 102

SAN ANTONIO -- A local farmer who has worked the soil using everything from a mule to a modern-day tractor was recognized Sunday by the Texas Farm Bureau.

Elmo Orange Snelling, 102, of Edmonson, received TFB's prestigious Pioneer Award at the farm and ranch organization's annual meeting in San Antonio.

"Much like the pioneers who set the foundation for the Lone Star State, Texas Farm Bureau recognizes those who laid the foundation for this organization and helped make it what it is today," TFB President Russell Boening said. "We're proud to honor Mr. Snelling for his years of agricultural advocacy."

Snelling was one of the first members of the Hale County Farm Bureau. In the 65-plus years he has been a member, Snelling has served in many offices, including board president.

In the 1960s, Snelling had farming interests in the Hollis, Oklahoma area and in Hale County. He commuted between the two locations regularly by plane, allowing him the opportunity to impact agriculture in a greater capacity.

When he was 97, Snelling installed a drip irrigation system on his property.

"Snelling embodies the qualities of a true pioneer," Boening said.

Snelling has also served on the boards of the local Soil and Water Conservation District and Grain Sorghum Producers. He was president of the Edmonson Wheat Growers board, the Hale County Fair Committee and volunteered with other community organizations.

He was an elder of the Church of Christ in Edmonson.

TFB's Pioneer Award honors one outstanding Texas farmer or rancher in each of the organization's 13 districts, as well as one staff member. Winners are chosen annually by a panel of their peers for their exceptional contributions to agriculture and Texas Farm Bureau.